

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 198
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Honorable Dale Wainwright
on his election to the Supreme Court of the State
of Texas.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is the Honorable Dale Wainwright, who, upon his election to the bench of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas, made history as one of the first African-Americans in Texas elected to this prestigious post; and

WHEREAS, a native of West Wilson County, Tennessee, Dale Wainwright was raised in the community of Needmore and graduated as the first African-American Valedictorian of Mount Juliet High School in 1979; and

WHEREAS, travelling to the United Kingdom, Judge Wainwright studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science and earned recognition as a Lucy Dalbiac Luard Scholar upon his graduation in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dale Wainwright continued his education in the United States, earning a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Howard University and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his law degree, Judge Wainwright practiced law at Texas-based firms Haynes & Boone and Andrews & Kurth for more than ten years before becoming a judge; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dale Wainwright was appointed by then Governor George W. Bush to preside over the 334th District Court in Harris County; and

WHEREAS, as a trial judge, Judge Wainwright presided over more than 60 civil trials, ruled on more than 3,000 contested motions and resolved over 3,000 lawsuits involving challenging legal issues, and in the Houston Bar evaluation poll, he received a 90 percent approval rating, with almost two thirds of respondents giving him an "outstanding" rating; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dale Wainwright garnered valuable experience on the bench of Texas' highest court upon his appointment last year by Governor Rick Perry before his fitness for this influential position was affirmed by Texas residents in a state wide election; and

WHEREAS, in his career in the courtroom, Judge Wainwright has earned the unbridled respect of attorneys, judges and the public alike for his fair and equitable administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work as a judge, the Honorable Dale Wainwright still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to several community organizations, coaching his sons' Little League and YMCA sports teams, co-founding programs to assist inner-city youth and serving on the Boards of Directors of the Houston Bar Association, the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program and the Texas Young Lawyers Association and as President of the Houston Young Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, his many and valuable professional accomplishments aside, the Judge Wainwright is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Cookeville native Debbie Wainwright, and their sons, Jeremy, Phillip and Joshua; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Dale Wainwright epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Judge Wainwright for his dedication to excellence in public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the Honorable Dale Wainwright on his election to the Supreme Court of the State of Texas and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.